



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**DURRETT, FRANCES BOWEN**  
**PAPERS**  
**1952**

*Processed by:*

Gregory G. Poole  
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: 1987.054  
Date Completed: November 30, 1987  
Location: XIII-C-3

## INTRODUCTION

The Frances Bowen Durrett Papers, 1952, are centered around the correspondence of Frances Durrett (1906-1977), an educator of Nashville, Tennessee, to several noted authors and poets of the 1920s. The papers are a gift from Mrs. Albert Bowen of Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Frances Bowen Durrett Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Frances Bowen Durrett Papers, containing 59 items, cover the year 1952. The collection consists primarily of correspondence and notes concerning Dr. Durrett's (1906-1977) dissertation research on the New Orleans literary publication, *The Double Dealer*. The publication was established in New Orleans in January of 1921. The editors of the magazine were Julius Weiss Friend, Albert Goldstein, and John McClure. It included as its subject matter the issues of the day – political, social, religious, and aesthetic. During its existence, there were published a total of 43 issues grouped in eight volumes. The magazine suspended publication in May of 1926.

Included in the collection is correspondence with and brief biographical notes for such literary figures as Thornton Wilder, Robert Graves, Robert Penn Warren, Mark Van Doren, and Howard Mumford Jones.

Subjects discussed in the correspondence include the role of the “little” magazines in American literature, information concerning the quality of *The Double Dealer*, and reasons for the demise of the “little” magazine movement after World War II.

Included in the collection are two brief biographical sketches of Ezra Pound (1885-1972) and John Crowe Ransom (1888-1965).

The Frances Bowen Durrett Papers provide valuable primary information on an important literary movement of the 1920s.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

### Frances Bowen Durrett

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1906      | May 15 – Born in Soochow, China, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Bowen, medical missionaries |
| 1926      | Received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee            |
| 1926-1956 | Taught in the Metropolitan Public Schools, Nashville, Tennessee                                |
| 1954      | Completed her dissertation, <i>The Double Dealer</i>   |
| 1956      | Received a PhD from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee                                |
| 1957-1971 | Taught at Aquinas Junior College and the University of Tennessee, Nashville                    |
| 1977      | April 17 – Died at her home in Nashville, Tennessee  |

Source: The Nashville *Tennessean*, April 18, 1977

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Biographical Sketches – Pound, Ezra, 1952
2. Biographical Sketches – Ransom, John Crowe, 1952
3. Correspondence – Aldington, Richard
4. Correspondence – Baker, Karla Wilson
5. Correspondence – Basso, J. Hamilton
6. Correspondence – Benet, Laura
7. Correspondence – Boaz, George
8. Correspondence – Bynner, Witter
9. Correspondence – Cabell, James Branch
10. Correspondence – Clark, Barrett Harper
11. Correspondence – Coatsworth, Elizabeth
12. Correspondence – Colum, Padraic
13. Correspondence – Cowley, Malcolm
14. Correspondence – Davidson, Gustav
15. Correspondence – DeFord, Miriam Allen
16. Correspondence – Deutsch, Babette
17. Correspondence – Dresbach, Glenn Ward
18. Correspondence – Durrett, Frances Bowen to Grace Conkling
19. Correspondence – Durrett, Frances Bowen to Samuel Gilmore
20. Correspondence – Eldridge, Paul
21. Correspondence – Fagan, M. Bryllion
22. Correspondence – Fearing, Kenneth
23. Correspondence – Goldstein, Albert
24. Correspondence – Grattan, C. Hartley
25. Correspondence – Graves, Robert
26. Correspondence – Jones, Howard Mumford
27. Correspondence – Jones, Llewellyn
28. Correspondence – Josephson, Matthew
29. Correspondence – Kemp, Harry
30. Correspondence – Kreymborg, Alfred
31. Correspondence – Long, Haniel
32. Correspondence – McClure, John
33. Correspondence – MacDonald, Mrs. Reed Innes
34. Correspondence – McHugh, Vincent
35. Correspondence – McWilliam, Carey
36. Correspondence – Marcus, Lillian
37. Correspondence – Mencken, Henry L.
38. Correspondence – Munoz-Marin, Muna Lee
39. Correspondence – Nethercot, Arthur H.
40. Correspondence – Redman, Ben Ray

41. Correspondence – Rorty, James
42. Correspondence – Russell, Phillips
43. Correspondence – Shipley, Joseph T.
44. Correspondence – Shultz, William J.
45. Correspondence – Smith, Chard Powers
46. Correspondence – Starrett, Vincent
47. Correspondence – Tate, Allen
48. Correspondence – Untermeyer, Louis
49. Correspondence – Upton Close (Joseph Washington Hall)
50. Correspondence – Van Doren, Mark
51. Correspondence – Van Vechten, Carl
52. Correspondence – Vinal, Harold
53. Correspondence – Warren, Robert Penn
54. Correspondence – Widdemer, Margaret
55. Correspondence – Wilder, Amos
56. Correspondence – Wilder, Thornton
57. Correspondence – Williams, Oscar
58. Correspondence – Wilson, Edmund
59. Correspondence – Yust, Walter

## NAME INDEX

This is a name index of only the correspondence in the Frances Bowen Durrett Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding the correspondent. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the folder in which the material is to be found.

- Aldington, Richard – English poet and editor, 3  
Baker, Karla Wilson – American poet, 4  
Basso, J. Hamilton – Born in New Orleans, editor, historian of Louisiana, 5  
Benet, Laura – American social worker, editor of the New York *Evening Post*, 6  
Boez, George – American educator, philosopher, 7  
Bynner, Witter – American editor of *McClure's Magazine*, playwright, poet, 8  
Cabell, James Branch – American writer, essayist, *Jurgen*, 9  
Clark, Barrett Harper – Canadian playwright, 10  
Coatsworth, Elizabeth – American poet, children's writer, 11  
Colum, Padriac – Irish poet of the "Irish Renaissance," founder of *Irish Review*, 12  
Cowley, Malcolm – American literary scholar, critic and essayist, 13  
Davidson, Gustav – Polish-born American publisher and poet, 14  
DeFord, Miriam Allen – American essayist and advertiser, 15  
Deutsch, Babette – American poet, 16  
Dresbach, Glenn Ward – American poet, 17  
Eldridge, Paul – American essayist and poet, 20  
Fagan, M. Bryllion – Russian born; American literary critic, 21  
Fearing, Kenneth – American novelist and poet, 22  
Goldstein, Albert – American essayist, journalist, editor of the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*  
Grattan, C. Hartley – American political scientist and historian, 24  
Graves, Robert – English novelist and poet, *I, Claudius*, 25  
Jones, Howard Mumford – American literary historian, 26  
Jones, Llewellyn – British literary critic, 27  
Josephson, Matthew – American historian and biographer, 28  
Kemp, Harry – American journalist, travel writer, 29  
Kreymborg, Alfred – American editor of several Imagist periodicals. Gave Ezra Pound his start, 30  
Long, Haniel – Born in Burma; American novelist, short story writer, 31  
McClure, John – (10) American poet and editor; one of the founders of *The Double Dealer*, 32  
MacDonald, Jessica North (Mrs. Reed Inness) – American poet and editor, 33  
McHugh, Vincent – American journalist, novelist, 34  
McWilliam, Carey – American literary historian, editor of *The Nation*, 35  
Marcus, Lillian – Personal friend of Dr. Durrett, 36

Mencken, Henry Louis – American literary critic, journalist, short story writer, essayist, editor, 37

Munoz-Marin, Muna Lee – American poet, 38

Nethercot, Arthur – American scholar, 39

Redman, Ben Ray – American columnist, editor, 40

Rorty, James – American journalist, 41

Russell, Phillips – American essayist, biographer, 42

Shipley, Joseph T. – American drama critic, translator, 43

Shultz, William J. – American political scientist, economist, 44

Smith, Chard Powers – American scholar and lecturer, 45

Starrett, Vincent – Canadian poet and columnist, 46

Tate, Allen – American literary critic, poet, editor, 47

Untermeyer, Louis – American poet, editor, 48

Upton Close (Joseph Washington Hall) – American foreign and war correspondent, journalist, 49

Van Doren, Mark – American literary critic and historian, 50

Van Vechten, Carl – American literary critic, music critic, journalist, essayist, 51

Vinal, Harold – American poet and editor, 52

Warren, Robert Penn – American novelist, poet and essayist, 53

Widdemer, Margaret – American poet, 54

Wilder, Amos – Brother of Thornton Wilder, educator, 55

Wilder, Thornton – American playwright and novelist, 56

Williams, Oscar – American poet, 57

Wilson, Edmund – American short story writer, essayist, literary critic, and historian, 58

Yust, Walter – American editor of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 59